

Approved as amended by the Board of Selectmen

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING**

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2006

ATTENDANCE: First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; Susan Young; Paul Hendrickson;
Barbara Thorne; Linda Santarella

STAFF: John Crary, Administrative Officer

OTHER: Dr. Peggy McLaughlin, Health Department;
Vince Proto, Environmental Health Specialists;
Dave Dever, Darien Government Access Television

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Klein called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

First Selectwoman Klein reported that the emergency response to Tuesday's and Wednesday's storm activity went very well. The coordination efforts, the ability to triage and the overall response to every incident was outstanding by all the staff and volunteers. On Thursday, an incident review was conducted by the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Management Director, Post 53 and DPW, and in that hour, the Police Department received 500 phone calls. 60 of those calls translated into actual reports. On an average day, they would have had about 20 actual reports. She said that CL&P's response time to the most critical accident on Ring's End Road was about 15-20 minutes. Some coordination efforts still need to be worked out with CL&P.

First Selectwoman Klein said that a press release was sent out by the Police Department that said they solved the CVS incident. The information will be published in the newspaper on Thursday.

She mentioned that she, Mr. McEwan, Mr. Crary, Captain Pavia, Chief Lovello and Ms. Warren attended a disaster drill in Norwalk. The training opportunities allow them to work together in the event of a disaster. She and Mr. McEwan met with the Mayor of Norwalk, the First Selectmen of Wilton & Westport, and their Fire Chiefs to review interoperable communications and the potential of establishing regional dispatch for fire calls.

She said that she received a letter from a resident regarding the poison ivy on Heights Road and the rail station, and it has been cleaned up.

She said that Commissioner Steven Corto from ConnDot has resigned from his position, so they will need a new Commissioner.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has two informational meetings scheduled for July 24, 2006 at 12:00 noon and again at 7:00 p.m. in Newington.

The Emergency Services Tax Relief was approved several years ago by the Board of Selectmen and the RTM for emergency services volunteers who were Darien residents. The information that is provided is for volunteers who are non-residents. The information packet has been sent to Mr. Hovell for review.

First Selectwoman Klein said that an additional Executive Session meeting for land acquisition, the memo of understanding with CL&P, and the personnel performance review are the topics, and it was agreed that the Board would meet on Thursday, July 20, at 6:00 p.m.

First Selectwoman Klein thanked Ms. Santarella for going out and offering assistance in response to Tuesday's storm. Ms. Young mentioned that she had gone out also, and said that the truck that had attempted to get through the flooded section of Heights Road had created the resulting floodwaters.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Crary said that on Tuesday, July 25, there will be a meeting of the Health District Planning Committee at 7:00 p.m. in Room 119. He invited everyone from the Board and the public to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Meet with Dr. Peggy McLaughlin and Vince Proto to discuss proposal to expand existing Health Department services.

Mr. Proto explained his proposal, and he asked the Board of Selectmen to consider additional funding for the Health Department. He said that it is a comprehensive plan to increase services and address the needs of the residents. It would amount to less than two full-time equivalent positions. While his staff now does a great job, it's not enough. The proposal will address the concerns of public health, and it has to become a priority. The proposal offers a greater scope of services with more manpower, not just more inspections. As each inspection is lengthy and time consuming, they are not in compliance as far as the number of inspections is concerned, but they are in compliance with service and quality. Ms. Young said that she was in favor of moving forward with this proposal. The Department conducts in-depth quality inspections, and they are the only community who is trained in using the green form.

Mr. Crary noted that there is an increase in expenditures of \$94,000 and asked if there was any expected increase in revenue. Mr. Proto said that he would propose a fee increase. First Selectwoman Klein asked Ms. Young how the increased dollar amount compares to that of a proposed health district. Ms. Young replied that it would cost considerably more for a health district. The amount of money has to increase in order to increase services. The proposal amounts to almost three more people, and the \$95,000 for a full-time Director of Health would be money for a salary; not services to the community.

- b) Discussion and Take Action on forming the Darien Affordable Housing Advisory Commission.

First Selectwoman Klein said that the Board of Selectmen had been asked to form a commission, rather than a committee for the Affordable Housing. She explained that, by Charter, the Board of Selectmen could form an Advisory Commission. She recommended forming the Darien Affordable Housing Advisory Commission. It was mentioned that September would most likely be a realistic timeframe to start the meetings. Some discussion followed regarding examples of charges, and the Board reviewed all of the

points in the draft. It was decided that the final draft would be presented and voted on at the August 7th meeting.

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO FORM THE DARIEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

**** MR. HENDRICKSON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c) Discuss Draft Government Access Television Policies and Procedures

Mr. Dave Dever explained that this is a compilation by Mr. Jim Cameron. They are close to going on the air, and they need Cablevision to set it up. The programmer, VCR's, DVD players and CD players have been moved to the projection booth. The cameras are installed but need to be lowered. It will be a direct feed to cablevision.

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**

**** MR. HENDRICKSON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d) Discuss and Take Action on approving the proposed Weed Beach Master Plan

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONCEPTUAL PLAN OF THE PROPOSED WEED BEACH MASTER PLAN.**

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

Some of the Board members expressed their concerns about the proposed Weed Beach Master Plan. Ms. Santarella stated that she had issues with the volleyball court and playground. The consensus was that the concept was great, but it just needed some changes. The Board members felt the concept of the plan should be moved forward.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO REVIEW ITEM F, BEFORE ITEM E ON THE AGENDA.**

**** MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

f) Discuss and Take Action on Grove Street Parking Plan

Ms. Klein recused herself and left the room.

**** MS. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

Grove Street Parking Plan

Whereas, the Planning & Zoning Commission has asked the Board of Selectmen, sitting as the Parking Authority, to consider modifications to the parking plan for the Grove Street lot, and

Whereas, the Board of Selectmen have held several meetings on this subject and have invited audience participation to consider various options, now therefore be it

Resolved, that because a number of the permit parking spaces in the Grove Street lot are not being utilized on a daily basis that the following plan is hereby approved.

All permit parking spaces in the Grove Street lot that remain open after 10:00 a.m. on a daily, Monday to Friday, basis shall be available for use by the public as (3) hours parking spaces with all of the same conditions and requirements that (3) hour parking spaces entail.

**** MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**

Ms. Santarella said all the information regarding the Grove Street Parking Plan has been provided to everyone. There are 89 parking spaces.

Some discussion took place regarding the waiting list for parking spaces, and they are planning to oversell another 10% of parking stickers. The Grove Street Parking Plan seems like a reasonable idea, it's being used by other communities, and they struck a balance with the interest of the commuters as well as the downtown merchants. The process of marking tires will still be in place to identify violators.

There was more discussion regarding loading zone timeframes, and keeping the back areas of the retail area pedestrian friendly in addition to the front areas.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Klein returned to the meeting.

e) Discuss the Town's 2006/07 Budget Process and the (6) year Capital Plan

First Selectwoman Klein explained the background information on this. She said they used a different approach by using their own projections, and the Board of Finance was aware of it. It seemed to be a good guideline for Department Heads to use. She said the numbers don't include the debt service or the Weed Beach Master Plan.

g) Discuss meeting with P&Z on Modifications to the Town's Parking Regulations

First Selectwoman Klein said that a consultant is expected to be hired by the end of this month, and they are working on the scope of the charge. It was suggested that a representative be appointed to follow the process by attending the P&Z meetings and reporting back to the Board of Selectmen.

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO REVIEW ITEM I, BEFORE ITEM H ON THE AGENDA.**

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

i) Discuss and Take Action on Setting shellfish permit fees for non-residents

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE SETTING SHELLFISH PERMIT FEES FOR NON-RESIDENTS.**

**** MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**

Mr. Crary explained the Board of Selectmen had approved the shellfish permit fees for residents several meetings ago. Mr. Proto had done a quick survey for them regarding non-residents permit fees. There was some discussion regarding the proposal of fees for non-residents. Shellfishing is only allowed in Scott's Cove. The State survey says there is no danger of overfishing. The marine police boat patrols the area and checks for permits, then would give fines if anyone was found to be in violation.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

h) Discuss and Take Action on Approving a sewer extension at Bayberry Lane

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEWER EXTENSION AT BAYBERRY LANE.**

**** MR. HENDRICKSON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

j) Transfers:

1) Multiple Departments to fund deficits in various departments.

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFERS FROM MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS TO FUND DEFICITS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.**

**** MR. HENDRICKSON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA REVIEW

First Selectwoman Klein reiterated that they will have an Executive Session meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the land acquisition, personnel performance review, and the Memo of Understanding contract with CL&P. It was suggested that they begin discussions on the Charter Revision Commission.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

August 7, 2006 Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

August 28, 2006 Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

(A two-thirds majority vote is required to add an item to the agenda)

First Selectwoman Klein said that there should be a decision on the Senior Center at the end of August. She mentioned that DRI had the stripes painted on Tokeneke Road as a gift. A gift had been offered last week as a gift for the Veterans. The design has been changed, and the names will now be on the large rocks.

She said that at the August 28, 2006 meeting, she would like to recognize Peter Gault for the work he's done as the parking intern.

She said that the Parking Report should say Prepared For Evonne Klein and John Crary and By Peter Gault. It was also suggested that the pieces of land that do not belong to the Town be indicated on the report.

**** MR. HENDRICKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services